

**MINUTES
of the
THIRD MEETING
of the
MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**August 19, 2021
Truth or Consequences Civic Center
400 West Fourth Street
Truth or Consequences**

The third meeting of the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee was called to order by Senator Harold Pope, co-chair, on August 19, 2021 at 9:38 a.m. at the Truth or Consequences Civic Center in Truth or Consequences.

Present

Rep. Harry Garcia, Co-Chair
Sen. Harold Pope, Co-Chair
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

Absent

Advisory Members

Rep. Rachel A. Black
Rep. Randal S. Crowder
Rep. Stefani Lord
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew

Sen. William F. Burt
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Sen. Michael Padilla
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert
Rep. G. Andrés Romero

Guest Legislator

Rep. Rebecca Dow

Staff

Jeret Fleetwood, Researcher, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Nancy Martinez, Research Assistant, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Thursday, August 19

Welcome and Introductions (9:46 a.m.)

Representative Garcia asked committee members, staff and members of the audience to introduce themselves.

AmericaServes Program (9:52 a.m.)

Greg Seeley, retired United States Air Force tech sergeant and combat veteran, introduced Michelle Peacock, combat veteran and community veteran volunteer, and Anthony Cosby, program manager, Institute for Veterans and Military Families. They provided the committee with a presentation relating to the AmericaServes program. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/MVAC%20081921%20Item%201%20AmericaServes%20Program.pdf>.

Veterans Courts (11:32 a.m.)

Rodolpho "Rudy" S. Martinez, former state representative, introduced Michael Renteria, district attorney, Sixth Judicial District, and Jennie Becerra, program director, Sixth Judicial District, and made a presentation to the committee about a veterans treatment court initiative. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/MVAC%20081921%20Item%202%20Veterans%20Courts.pdf>.

United States Department of Defense State Liaison Office (1:03 p.m.)

Dale Vande Hey, south central regional liaison, State Liaison Office, United States Department of Defense, gave a presentation on the Defense State Liaison Office and provided an overview of the department and its history as well as some of the department's legislative priorities. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/MVAC%20081921%20Item%203%20DSLO.pdf>.

White Sands Missile Range Update (1:46 p.m.)

Brigadier General Eric Little, Commanding General, White Sands Missile Range, introduced Command Sergeant Major Christopher Prosser, Command Sergeant Major, White Sands Missile Range, and presented the committee with an update on White Sands Missile Range. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=MVAC&Date=8/19/2021&ItemNumber=5>.

Mesilla Valley Community of Hope (3:05 p.m.)

Kat McClure, veteran services coordinator, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, presented the committee with an overview and update on the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, the services provided and the importance of continuing to help homeless veterans. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/MVAC%20081921%20Item%204%20Mesilla%20Valley%20Community%20of%20Hope.pdf>.

Public Comment (3:34 p.m.)

A list of individuals making public comment can be found in the meeting file.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.